

(b) The provision of basic health facilities in urban areas differs from town to town. While in some towns basic health facilities are better than those in rural areas, in other towns, the comparative conditions are inferior. However, the availability of Health/Family Welfare Centres per 1,00,000 population is considerably lower in urban areas as compared to rural areas.

(c) Considering the need to address the issues of slum development, housing and basic services in cities and towns, the Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from December 3, 2005. Under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme development of housing and provision of basic civic amenities to poor households are addressed in 63 Mission cities. The problems of non-Mission cities are addressed through Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The implementation period of the Mission is 2005-2012.

Further, an urban poverty alleviation programme, namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is under implementation since 01.12.1997 with the objective to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed, or underemployed through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has so far sanctioned Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 4785.26 Crore under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (VSUP) and Rs. 1411.79 Crore under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) respectively to improve the living conditions of the urban slum dwellers. Rs. 1227.54 Crore has been released under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) since its inception to eradicate poverty.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Augmentation of India's Nuclear Power Capacity

3037. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCL) proposes to start uranium mining in Meghalaya to augment India's installed nuclear power capacity upto 20,000 MW by 2020;

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to protect environment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) propose to set up amine and a mill at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong, Mawthabab in the West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya State, after obtaining all necessary clearances.

(c) UCIL shall take all necessary measures for environmental protection and obtain Environmental Clearance as per procedure laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The mining and milling activities will be reviewed and monitored by various statutory agencies like Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, State Pollution Control Board, and Directorate General of Mines Safety. There will not be any discernible effect on environment due to proposed mining and milling activities of UCIL, in view of various mitigating steps which will be taken under an Environment Management Plan.

Shortage of Uranium Deposits

3038. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steps which Government are considering to overcome the acute shortage of uranium deposit in the country;

(b) whether it is high time to vigorously make efforts to explore new uranium deposits in the country which US may exploit through nuclear deal to push its long standing non-proliferation agenda; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD), a unit under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has identified 1,07,268 tonnes of in-situ uranium resources